

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION INFORMATION LETTER

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## MEXICO MAY RAISE FOOD DUTIES

A cable from the American commercial attache at Mexico City states that the Tariff Commission is recommending increases in import duties on certain items, including dried and preserved foods, to improve exchange. No definite date has been announced for the promulgation of these increases, nor are further details available at this time regarding the commodities affected. Since these changes may be promulgated shortly and become effective with little or no notice, exporters to Mexico might well urge their agents or representatives in that country to keep in close touch with the situation.

## JAPANESE SALMON AND CRAB CATCH

The *Commercial Intelligence Journal*, issued by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, contained in its issue for October 11, the following article by Commercial Secretary James A. Langley on the Japanese salmon and crab catch:

A new breeding ground for crabs off the coast of Alaska has been found by the representatives of the Department of Agriculture. These representatives have been in the Bering Sea area for the last three months endeavoring to map out new fishing grounds. Reports say that this new crab-fishing ground is very extensive, with an abundance of crabs of a large and uniform size. The discovery is most welcome among crab canners in Japan, as the crab in Russian waters is fast becoming depleted with increased competition from Russian fishing interests. It is estimated that the production of canned crab by Soviet Russia this year will total about 150,000 cases, or double that of last year. During the past, Russian crab was disposed of mainly in England; this year it was decided to export 80,000 cases to the United States at 2 to 2.50 yen lower per box than Japanese quotations. The export price of Japanese crab runs about 35 yen per case. It is said that the profit per case is about 1.50 yen, and Japanese exporters are very concerned at the competition from Russian canners, especially as the United States has been consuming about 60 per cent of the Japanese pack.

At a recent meeting of Japanese producers and exporters of canned salmon, it was decided to reduce the export price of canned pink salmon intended for the London market from 10 yen to 9 yen. Statistics indicate that early Japanese consignments of canned salmon for England have amounted to 350,000 cases from the west coast of Kamchatka and 200,000 cases from the eastern coast. Reports show that the red sockeye run on

the east coast (Ust-Kamchatka) was almost a complete failure. The Japanese-Russian Fishery Company and the Soviet Fisheries, "AKO," have packed about 80,000 cases, estimated at about 20 per cent of the estimated pack. Last year the former packed 90,000 cases, while "AKO" put up 60,000 cases. During 1928 the total pack at Ust-Kamchatka was in the vicinity of 450,000 cases. This marked decrease in the catches during the last two years is attributed to intensive and unrestricted fishing in the river since the Soviet occupation and control in 1923. While it is the off season for red salmon in the west coast of Kamchatka, it is estimated that the pack up to the end of August amounted to 550,000 cases of red salmon, 640,000 cases of pink salmon, and 40,000 cases of silver salmon. The above figures include the Soviet pack, in which there may be some discrepancies with reference to the actual size of the pack.

#### PRODUCTION OF CUCUMBERS FOR PICKLES

The estimated production of cucumbers for pickles in 1930, based upon the yields reported by packers to the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates, is 6,390,000 bushels, compared with a production of 3,377,000 bushels in 1929. Production in 1930 is the second largest crop on record during the past twelve years, being exceeded only by the crop of 1925. It is 89 per cent larger than the light crop of 1929, due to a 39 per cent increase in acreage and a 36 per cent increase in the average yield per acre. During the period 1924-1928, the average acreage was 74,530 acres, the average yield 52 bushels and the average production 3,877,000 bushels.

State	Acreage		Production	
	1929 Acres	1930 Acres	1929 Bus.	1930 Bus.
Massachusetts	690	680	83,000	95,000
New York	820	900	28,000	48,000
Ohio	1,730	3,000	69,000	222,000
Indiana	9,000	12,500	270,000	850,000
Illinois	1,250	1,400	44,000	63,000
Michigan	21,000	29,000	600,000	1,537,000
Wisconsin	11,310	17,500	475,000	1,015,000
Minnesota	3,500	4,500	105,000	234,000
Iowa	1,750	3,150	61,000	189,000
Missouri	1,260	1,200	28,000	36,000
Louisiana	960	1,780	108,000	178,000
Colorado	2,000	2,800	230,000	364,000
Washington	510	610	77,000	93,000
Oregon	1,320	2,000	172,000	293,000
California	2,710	3,450	623,000	676,000
Other states <sup>a</sup>	7,460	8,870	395,000	497,000
U. S. total	67,270	93,400	3,377,000	6,390,000

<sup>a</sup> Other states include Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming.

Reports were received from 62 pickle packers whose total receipts of green stock for the 1930 season were 4,384,000 bushels, representing nearly 70 per cent of the total production of 6,390,000 bushels estimated for the country this season. According to these reports, total receipts of green stocks this year

were 95 per cent greater than total receipts in 1929. Total stocks on hand October 1, 1930 (salt and dill pickles in tanks or barrels, both sold and unsold, and including carry over), were about 50 per cent greater than total stocks on hand October 1, 1929. The October stocks this year exceeded total receipts of green stocks by 10 per cent; stocks last year exceeded receipts by 40 per cent.

If the reported percentages are representative of all packers, including those not reporting, the total stocks on hand October 1, 1930, would be approximately 7,000,000 bushels, compared with 4,700,000 bushels on hand October 1, 1929.

#### ASPARAGUS FOR CANNING

The Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued the following statistics on asparagus for canning in California during the last three years:

Year	Acreage Acres	Production Tons	Ave. price per ton	Total value
1928 .....	49,300	64,100	\$79.36	\$5,087,000
1929 .....	49,400	74,100	79.40	5,884,000
1930 .....	51,000	71,400	78.90	5,633,000

#### CANNED MILK MARKETS

The production trend of evaporated milk is closely approaching that of a year ago. According to a same-firm comparison made by the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the make during September fell less than 2 per cent short of that of September, 1929, while the deficit during August amounted to 10 per cent and during July to 17 per cent. The seasonal decrease from August to September this year amounted to slightly over 17 per cent in comparison to 26 per cent during the same period last year. It seems quite probable that the comparatively heavier production of evaporated milk was due more to the diversion of milk from butter and cheese, and, in a few instances, market milk and cream, than to actual increases in milk flow. During the first nine months of 1930 the production of evaporated milk fell around 8 per cent short of that for the same period of 1929.

Despite the comparatively heavier seasonal production during September, stocks of evaporated milk continued to decrease. While production was only 2 per cent lighter during September this year than last year, stocks were actually 13 per cent short of those of a year ago on October 1, while the deficit on September 1 amounted to 10 per cent. October 1 stocks were the lightest, compared with the previous year, since November 1, 1928,

but still exceeded the five-year average holdings by around 27 per cent. Total stocks were reduced by over 20,000,000 pounds during September, and a same-firm comparison showed October 1 stocks nearly 11 per cent lighter than on September 1.

Condensed milk markets continued in full steady position during October with no general price changes. The continued light production in comparison with a year ago, light stocks, and the increased demand on the part of the confectionery trade were sustaining factors. Production of condensed milk during September did not show the full seasonal decrease of last year and only fell around 15 per cent short of August. The deficit in comparison with September, 1929, amounted to around 22 per cent, a reduction in the deficit of about 6 per cent. The shortage in stocks in comparison with a year ago was increased from 8 per cent on September 1 to nearly 15 per cent on October 1.

#### TRUCK CROP MARKETS

During the week ended October 28 an upward price trend was observed for cabbage, eastern grapes, and potatoes, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Freezing temperatures in northern states had affected the market to some extent. Lower prices were indicated for onions and California lettuce. Products which showed very little change were apples, pears, celery and sweet potatoes.

Movement of grapefruit from Florida decreased to 305 cars for the week, while Texas shipped only 40. Orange forwardings from Florida increased very sharply to 750 cars, as against 90 a year ago. California, on the other hand, moved only 100 carloads of oranges, or about one-tenth as many as in late October, 1929.

Tomato shipments were still heavy, averaging fully 100 cars daily, most of which came from California points. The Indiana tomato season was about finished.

Shipments of apples decreased slightly to 8,180 cars for the week, with Washington, Idaho, Oregon, New York and the Virginias leading. Western states originated 4,975 and eastern districts 3,205 cars. Most of the crop is now under cover.

Cabbage shipments increased considerably to 1,465 cars. New York increased greatly to 815 for the week; Wisconsin originated 390 cars and Colorado 150.

Sweet potato shipments increased to 690 cars, of which Virginia furnished 380, Tennessee 80, New Jersey and California about 65 each, and Maryland 30 cars. Southern stock is beginning to move more freely.

Pear shipments decreased to 670 cars for the week, but were still twice as heavy as a year ago. Washington increased temporarily to 350 cars, while Oregon dropped to 85 and California to 110 cars. New York was down to 115 for the seven-day period.

Though winter is just approaching, growers of strawberries are already reporting on their prospective acreage for next spring. Principally as a result of the prolonged drought, it looks now as if the total commercial area of strawberries for picking in 1931 will be reduced by 9 per cent to 162,000 acres, the smallest since 1926. Acreage has been reduced each season from the high point of 208,840 acres in 1928, partly because of unsatisfactory prices in many states and because of unfavorable weather conditions.

Combined movement of 30 fruits and vegetables decreased further to 31,550 cars, but was slightly heavier than a year ago.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Oct. 19-25 1930	Oct. 12-18 1930	Oct. 20-26 1929	Total this sea- son to Oct. 25	Total last sea- son to Oct. 26	Total last season
Apples, total	8,179	8,837	8,399	48,849	53,210	102,825
Eastern states	3,203	3,518	3,631	20,751	31,353	51,444
Western states	4,976	5,319	4,768	28,098	21,857	51,381
Asparagus	7	16	8	2,783	2,002	2,102
Cabbage	1,465	1,119	1,355	26,249	33,044	44,145
Carrots:						
1931 season	128	75	89	340	301	10,351
1930 season	78	55	99	10,351	10,360	12,149
Cauliflower	105	178	172	1,698	2,003	9,540
Cucumbers	46	24	17	7,266	7,282	7,469
Green peas	33	65	24	6,693	5,124	5,160
Mixed deciduous fruit	61	81	40	5,633	5,632	5,192
Mixed vegetables	400	333	372	26,434	28,450	32,430
Pears	671	829	311	25,587	18,968	21,146
Peppers:						
1931 season	3	3	0	6	0	2,594
1930 season	81	82	71	2,594	3,089	3,332
Plums and prunes	5	13	5	8,624	6,042	6,046
Spinach	46	19	75	9,506	10,045	10,348
String beans:						
1931 season	68	15	1	83	2	9,331
1930 season	99	144	236	9,331	8,393	8,626
Tomatoes	717	780	508	31,393	30,681	32,202

CANNED FOODS IN SWITZERLAND

A review of the canned fruit and vegetable imports into Switzerland in "Commerce Reports" for October 20 shows that the United States in 1929 supplied 43.5 per cent of the total value of these imports. The most popular American canned foods in Switzerland are stated to be asparagus, baked beans, pineapple, peaches, and apricots.

## WHOLESALE TRADE IN SEPTEMBER

Reports to the Federal Reserve System by wholesale firms selling groceries, dry goods, hardware and drugs indicate that in all these lines sales in the month of September were considerably smaller than a year ago. Reports for the first nine months of the year combined also show decreases, as compared with last year, in the four lines of wholesale trade. The sales of wholesale grocers, by districts, show the following changes:

	September, 1930 compared with September, 1929	January 1-September 30, 1930, compared with January 1-September 30, 1929
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
Boston .....	- 9	- 6
New York .....	- 9	- 5
Philadelphia .....	- 1	- 3
Cleveland .....	- 8	- 5
Richmond .....	- 9	- 5
Atlanta .....	-23	-12
Chicago .....	- 4	- 2
St. Louis .....	- 9	- 7
Minneapolis .....	- 5	- 2
Kansas City .....	+ 3	- 5
Dallas .....	- 7	- 6
San Francisco .....	0	+ 1

## AUSTRALIAN FOOD AND DRUG STANDARDS REGULATIONS

The Food and Drug Standards Regulations, 1930, issued under the Health Act, 1928, were published in the *Victoria Government Gazette* of August 15, 1930, and came into operation in that state one month later, except in a few cases, according to the American trade commissioner at Melbourne. The regulations include instruction as to labeling, preservatives, and permitted coloring, statement of weights and measures, use of artificial sweetening substances, etc. Details concerning specific commodities may be obtained upon request from the Foreign Tariffs Division of the Department of Commerce at Washington, D. C.

## REPORT ON YUGO-SLAVIAN FISHERY INDUSTRY

A report on the fishery industry in Yugo-Slavia by the American counsel at Zagreb will be loaned by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce to firms interested in this subject. The report contains information on the kind of fish caught, number of factories, packing methods, machinery used, etc.

## BUSINESS CONDITIONS

For the week ended October 25, bank debits outside New York City showed an increase over the week ended October 18, but declined from the corresponding period in 1929. Total loans



and discounts of Federal reserve member banks, although showing a fractional change from the preceding week, were lower than a year ago.

Interest rates, both for call and time money, while showing no change from a week ago, were considerably lower than last year.

The number of defaulting firms during the past week were more numerous than the previous period.

Wholesale prices as measured by Fisher's index showed no change from the preceding week, but were considerably lower than for the same week in 1929.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics for the latest reported week, was less than for the preceding week and the same week a year ago.

#### CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended October 18. . . . .	931,085	376,038	238,185	316,862
Preceding week . . . . .	954,874	378,146	242,695	334,033
Corresponding week, 1929 . . . . .	1,185,564	486,991	271,809	426,764
Corresponding week, 1928 . . . . .	1,163,135	463,258	270,308	429,569

#### CANNING QUALITY OF EASTERN PEACHES

A publication that will be of interest to peach canners and growers has been issued by the Department of Agriculture as Technical Bulletin No. 196 under the title "The Canning Quality of Certain Commercially Important Eastern Peaches." The experimental work described in the bulletin was concerned with determining the suitability for canning of the more important commercial eastern varieties of peaches and of the conditions necessary to produce therefrom a canned product of acceptable appearance, flavor and dessert quality. The bulletin analyzes the factors determining the success of a canning enterprise and the problems of developing a southeastern peach canning industry.

#### BACTERIAL DISEASES OF BEANS

A comprehensive bulletin presenting the results of a comparative study of the bacterial diseases of the bean has been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Ithaca, N. Y., as Memoir 127. Six distinct diseases, the causal organisms of which have been proved through careful and extensive inoculation, are discussed, and the symptoms of each disease on the bean plant are described in full and their similarities and differences noted. Control measures are also discussed. The bulletin of nearly 100 pages contains a number of excellent illustrations, one in color, and also furnishes an extensive list of references to published material on bacterial diseases of the bean.

**STUDY OF THE PLUM CURCULIO**

A comprehensive publication on the plum curculio in the Georgia peach belt has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Technical Bulletin No. 188. The bulletin is based on an investigation of the life history and habits of the curculio conducted during the seasons 1921 to 1924, inclusive. The publication contains a number of excellent illustrations. Acitrate lead arsenate was found to be the most effective insecticide for the curculio.

**RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES IN OHIO**

A 78-page booklet on raspberries and blackberries in Ohio, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster, as Bulletin No. 454, is a rather complete treatise on this subject, with emphasis on culture and on the nature and control of diseases and insect pests. The bulletin was prepared cooperatively by the Departments of Horticulture, Botany and Plant Pathology, and Entomology.

**STUDY OF MEDITERRANEAN FLY IN HAWAII**

A recent publication of the Department of Agriculture, Circular No. 109-C, presents a detailed study of the parasitism of the Mediterranean fly in Hawaii for the period 1922-24. Tables are given which show the relative abundance of fruit fly larvae in various host fruits from 1916 to 1924, and the extent of control by parasites in these fruits.

**CHERRY FRUIT FLIES**

An illustrated pamphlet of 12 pages on the cherry fruit flies has been issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at East Lansing, Mich., as Circular Bulletin No. 131. The bulletin deals with the seasonal habits and appearance of the flies, their feeding habits, the character of injury they cause, and measures for controlling these insect pests.

**CONTENTS**

	Page		Page
Mexico may raise food duties.....	2209	Wholesale trade in September.....	2214
Japanese salmon and crab catch.....	2209	Business conditions.....	2214
Production of cucumbers for pickles.....	2210	Canning quality of eastern peaches.....	2215
Asparagus for canning.....	2211	Bacterial diseases of beans.....	2215
Canned milk markets.....	2211	Study of the plum curculio.....	2216
Truck crop markets.....	2212	Raspberries and blackberries in Ohio.....	2216
Canned foods in Switzerland.....	2213	Study of Mediterranean fly in Hawaii.....	2216
Australian food and drug standards regulations.....	2214	Cherry fruit flies.....	2216
Report on Yugo-Slavian fishery industry.....	2214		